

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

5 DECEMBER 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. South Vietnam

a. Viet Cong military activity slackened somewhat during the last week of November, but it is still well above the level which prevailed before the 1 November coup in Saigon.

b. The Communists have generally been more effective, too, in that they have inflicted heavier losses in personnel and weapons at no apparent increase in cost to themselves.

c. It has netted them, for example, a gain of nearly 1,000 weapons, possibly more, during the month--enough to equip three regular battalions.

d. November's activity dramatizes the unfavorable statistical trends in the conflict which set in last July.

e. Several charts are included at the back of the book.

2. USSR

a. The Soviet Party Presidium--the main policy making organ--is in obvious need of new faces and may get them at the end of the Central Committee plenum which convenes next Monday.

(Cont'd)

PRESIDIUM OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION

<u>Full Members</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Positions</u>	<u>Probable Areas of Responsibility (Not Necessarily Complete)</u>
Khrushchev	69	Party First Secretary Premier Chairman, RSFSR Party Bureau	Party and government head
Brezhnev	57	Party Secretary Titular head of state	Party second-in-command
Voronov	52	RSFSR Premier	Government affairs of the Russian Republic
Kirilenko	57	First Deputy Chairman, RSFSR Party Bureau	RSFSR party-industrial affairs
Kozlov	55	Party Second Secretary	Incapacitated
Kosygin	59	First Deputy Premier	Domestic economic affairs
Kuusinen	82	Party Secretary	CPSU relations with foreign Communist parties
Mikoyan	68	First Deputy Premier	Senior adviser to Khrushchev, particularly in fields of foreign affairs and foreign trade
Podgorny	60	Party Secretary	CPSU relations with foreign Communist parties (?)
Polyansky	45	Deputy Premier	Government agricultural affairs
Suslov	61	Party Secretary	CPSU relations with foreign Communist parties Coordination of world Communist movement
Shvernik	75	Chairman, Party Commission	Heads trial board concerned with infractions of party discipline

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f. Personnel actions by the Central Committee plenum may also provide clues to the lineup of Khrushchev's possible successors.

g. While Brezhnev is generally top seeded, we have been watching party secretary Podgorny's star rise. He is probably closer to Khrushchev both personally and in terms of ability and style than any of his sidekicks.

3. Ghana-USSR-US

a.

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] Moscow has
[redacted] offered military assist-
ance to Ghana [redacted]
[redacted].

[redacted] Nkrumah

[redacted]
[redacted] has had some set backs
recently (e.g., no mediating role
in the Algerian-Moroccan dispute)
in attempts to promote pan-Africanism
and himself with it. There are also
frustrations over failure of the
cocoa conference.

(Cont'd)

f. In short, he is in a frustrated, potentially dangerous mood, according to Ambassador Mahoney.

g. It is reflected in his recent cancellation of US aid to the medical school project, in the most violent anti-US tone in the past 20 months on the Ghana radio, and, now, in the acceptance of Soviet military aid.

h. Even so, London and Ambassador Mahoney have reserved judgment and are not prepared to predict that Nkrumah intends to reduce drastically his Western contacts.

4. Laos

a. The murder last night of neutralist intelligence chief Colonel Leuang will aggravate distrust among the factions and could well lead to reprisals by pro-Communists who will try to pin the deed on Phoumi's faction.

b. Leuang, a rigid neutralist, was strongly opposed to the current trend of increased cooperation between the neutralists and rightists and was, in turn, strongly opposed by the rightists.

(Cont'd)

c. They may have done it (they were talking of it at one time), although as is usual in Laos, the possibility of a provocation is ever present.

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5. Italy

a. Moro has finally managed to get a cabinet together, but to do it, he had to go back on earlier commitments and give one of the three top economic posts (Budget) to a Socialist.

b. The 24-man cabinet thus has five Socialists plus Vice Premier Nenni.

c. The right wing of the Christian Democrats does not like the setup, and the 16 assembly deputies from this faction cannot be relied on. The same goes for some 32 left-wing Socialists.

(Cont'd)

d. Even so, Moro stands a good chance of surviving the confidence vote which will come in the next week or two when he presents his government's program to the assembly.

6. Sino-Soviet
Dispute

a. Behavior of the Soviets and the Chinese Communists at the World Peace Council session in Warsaw makes it clear that each side went there to test the other's intentions, and that each found the other unprepared to compromise.

b. The Soviets brought all disputed items to a vote and won. The Chinese, however, submitted detailed draft counterproposals and managed to garner enough support from Afro-Asian and Latin American delegates to give color to their claim that Peiping speaks for the underdeveloped nations.

c. Chinese Communists have done everything but walk out on the meeting to disassociate themselves from all the World Peace Council resolutions.

d. They probably will make a major case of this instance of Soviet "manipulation," but apparently are not yet ready to form their own rival peace front.

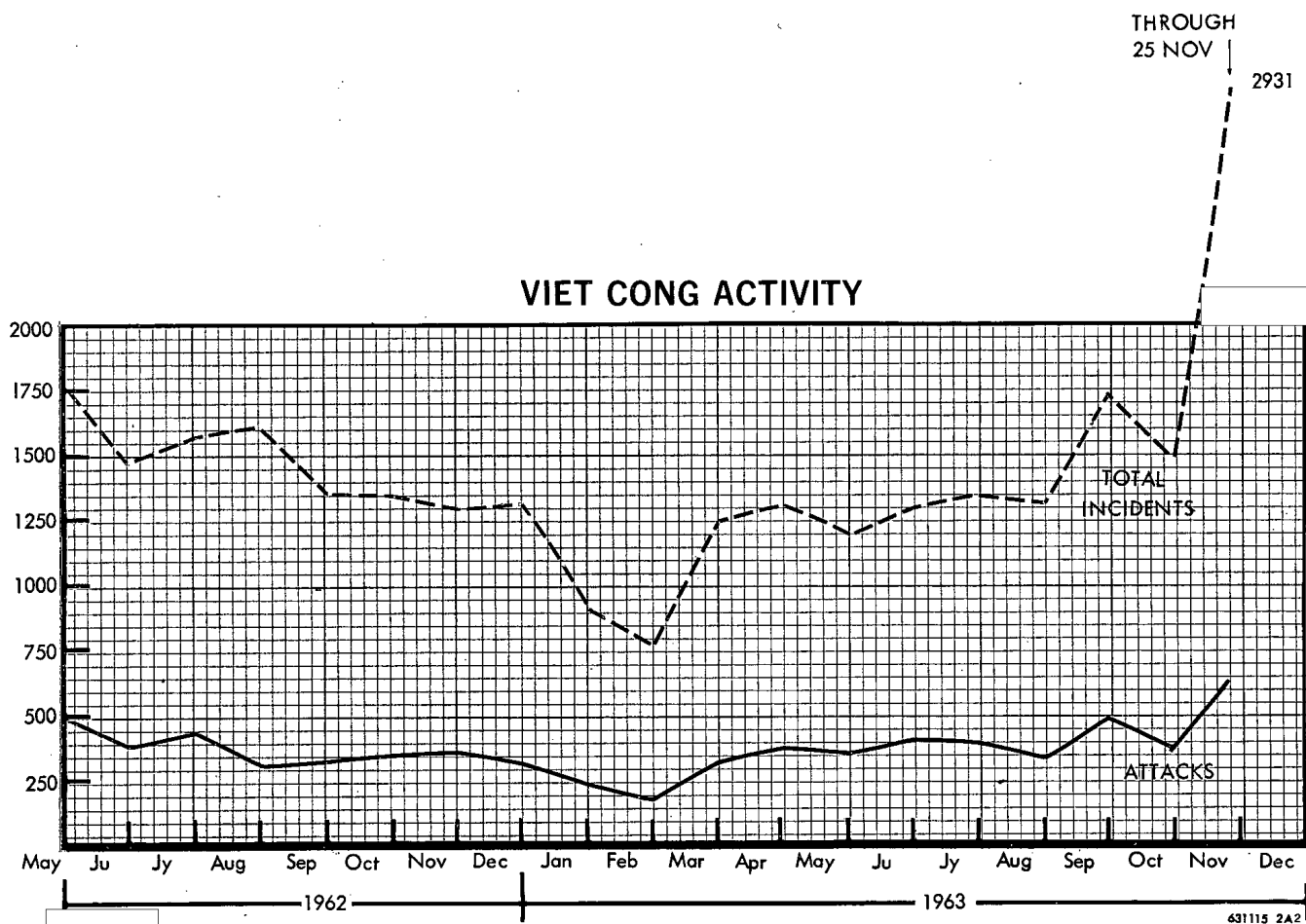
NOTES

- A. Venezuela Lieutenant Colonel Chenault was released in Caracas early this morning in good health.
- B. Great Britain [REDACTED]
- C. Dominican Republic The leftist guerrilla force [REDACTED] has been all but subdued by government troops, with some 40 taken prisoner and 3 killed. Another group of 25 is still at large. Rumors that they received training and supplies from Cuba [REDACTED]
- D. Iraq Baathists in position of authority are beginning to desert the ship, some under pressure. While the non-Baathists appear to be in control, the commander of the 4th Division, a dedicated Baathist, is said to have surrounded Baghdad, and he may try to reverse the trend.
- E. Thailand Sarit has named Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Thanom as acting premier and at the same time has given General Chitti the job of acting commander in chief of the army. He is urging everyone to hold together behind Thanom and they may do so while he lives, but these two wires could easily get crossed.

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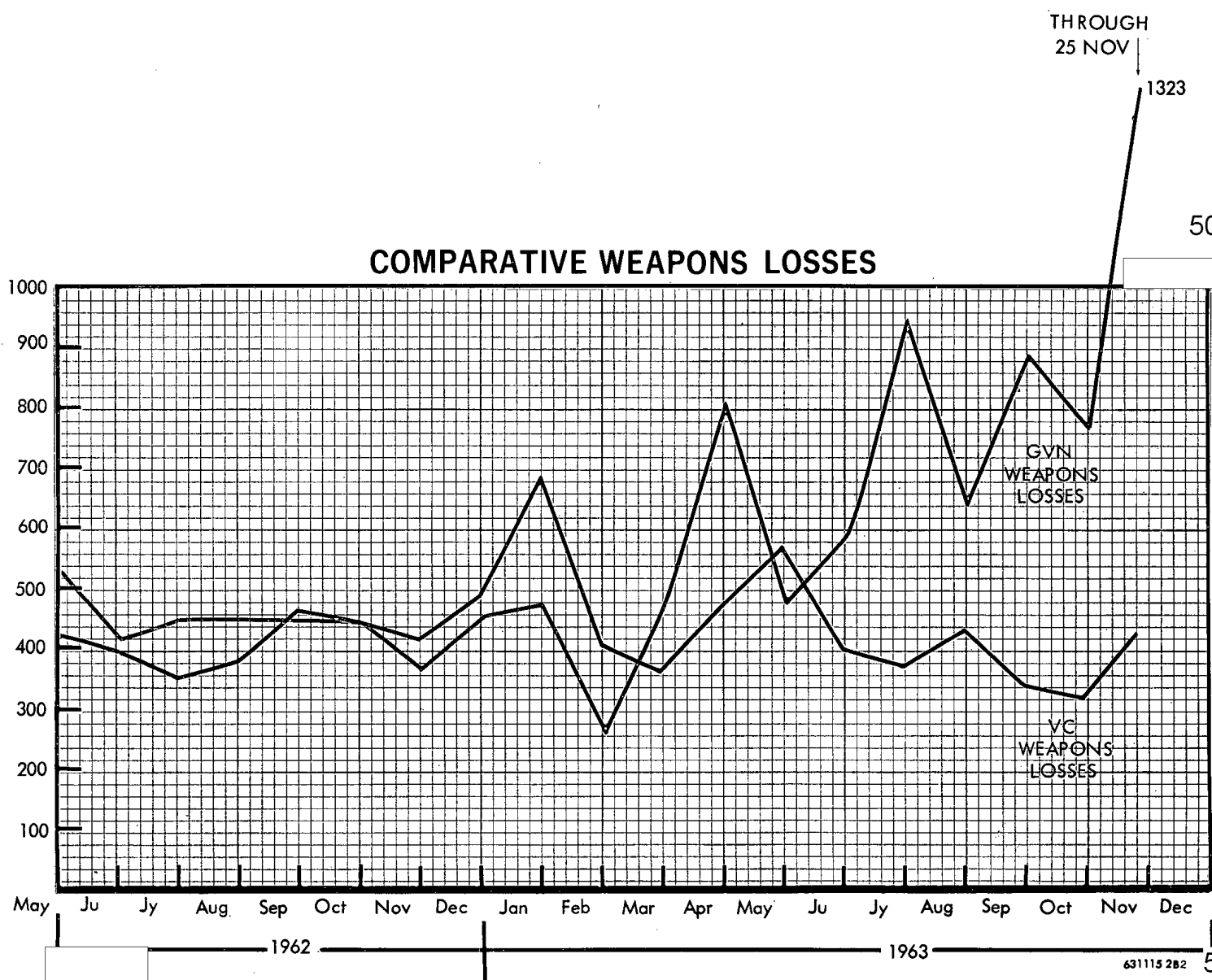
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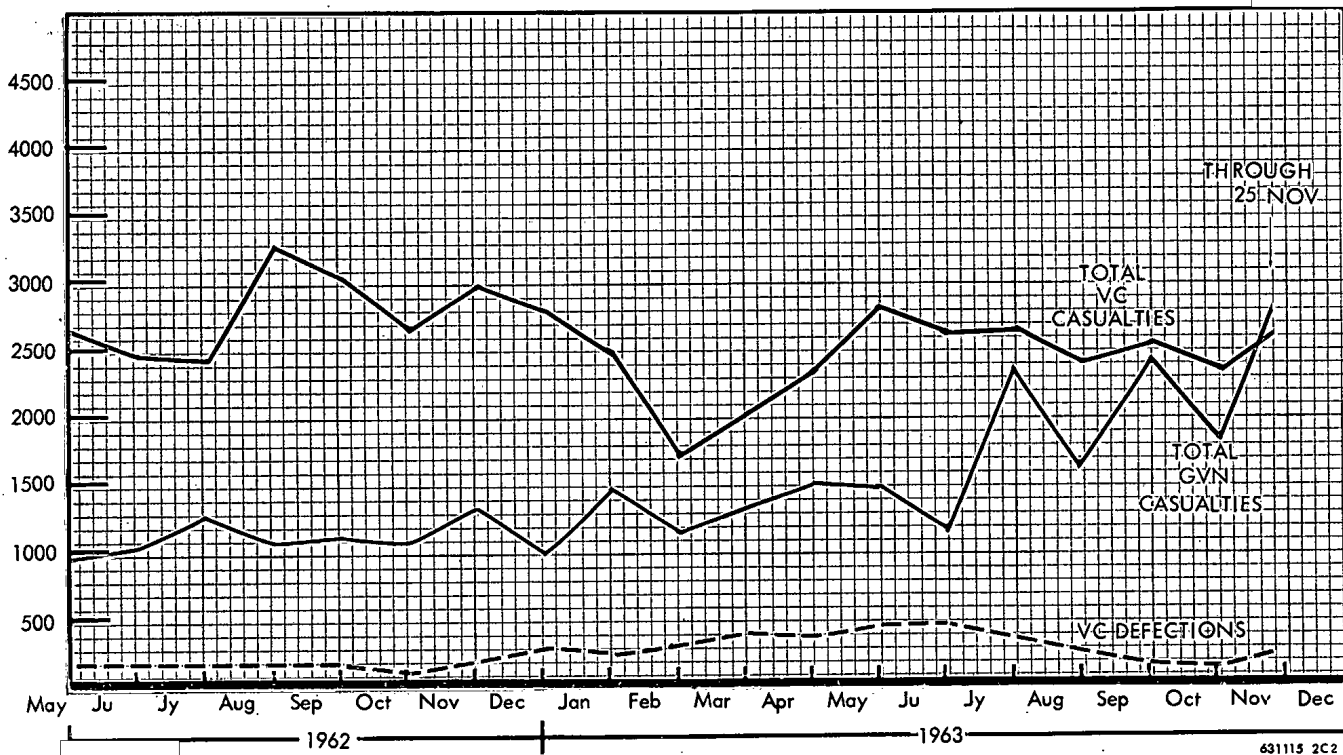
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COMPARATIVE WEAPONS LOSSES



COMPARATIVE CASUALTIES



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